

Poetry.

HE TOOK TIME TO DIE.

There was an old fellow who never had time
For a fresh morning look at the Volume sublime,
Who never had time for the soft hand of prayer
To smooth out the wrinkles of labor and care,
Who could not find time for that service most
sweet

At the altar of home where the dear ones all
meet,

And never found time with the people of God
To learn the good way that the fathers have trod.

But he found time to die,

Oh, yes!

He found time to die.

This busy old fellow, too busy was he
To linger at breakfast, at dinner or tea
For the merry small chatter of children and wife;
But led in his marriage a bachelor life,
Too busy for kisses, too busy for play;
No time to be loving, no time to be gay,
No time to replenish his vanishing health,
No time to enjoy his swift-gathering wealth.

But he found time to die;

Oh, yes!

He found time to die.

This beautiful world had no beauty for him;
Its colors were black and its sunshine was dim.
No leisure for woodland, for river, or hill,
No time in his life just to think and be still;
No time for his neighbors, no time for his friends,
No time for those highest immutable ends
Of the life of a man who is not for a day,
But for worse or for better, for ever and aye,

Yet he found time to die!

Oh, yes!

He found time to die.

Amos R. Wells, in Harper's Weekly.

Contributions.

SPICE IN THE SUNDAY-SCHOOL.

J. D. MCFADEN.

The object of the Sunday-school is to develop the religious faculties and train the spiritual nature, thus linking the child with the grand memorials of grace.

When the children of Israel crossed the Jordan, twelve stones were taken from the river bed and carried to Gilgal, where they were erected as memorials of the journey across the river. These stones were to be object lessons for the children.

Joshua said, "When your children shall ask their fathers in time to come, saying, What mean these stones? Then ye shall let your children know, saying, Israel came over this Jordan on dry land. For the Lord your God dried up the waters of Jordan from before you. etc." Joshua 4: 19-24.

The successor of Moses was preparing for the teaching of youth through divine historical facts.

Our children taught in the Lord's Day school, are made acquainted with the great memorials of redemption, are linked

with the church and prepared for a glorious and triumphant future.

Lord's Day teaching, however, should be done in a wise, consistent and practical manner, in such a way as to bring out the moral and religious germ planted in the organization.

It is natural for the child to eat and drink, and see, and smell, and hear, and talk. And if the organs are healthy, the education proceeds gradual and natural.

The child has these organs for communication with the physical world, the child also has organs for communication with the moral and religious world, benevolence and conscientiousness, faith, hope, and veneration, and if the education is properly conducted the development will be just as natural as in the more physical part.

A mother overheard her little boy of tender years, say, while throwing sticks at a bird's nest, "Go way, God, go way." She questioned him, he replied that he heard God tell him not to throw sticks at the little birds, it was naughty. Shakespeare says conscience is a thousand swords. Certainly its sharp point is felt at a very tender age. Wisdom and spice are both needed to rightly direct.

What is spice?

The figurative definition of the word is: "A small quantity which gives flavor or taste to a greater; a small admixture, a flavoring." Let us take this definition, "a small quantity of something good which will flavor a greater quantity that needs the good, a complete mixture of both quantities.

Who will furnish this spice?

1. The superintendent.

Like priest, like people, a dull superintendent, a dull school; a live superintendent, a live school. One will grow from the other. Set a whiskey keg in the pulpit, and you can see it leaking in the pew. The right man as superintendent, and a good school is the result, other things being equal.

One spice box the superintendent can draw from is PROMPTNESS. "On time" should be one of his passwords. He should not only preach, but practice. Think of a school announced for ten o'clock, and the superintendent commencing at 10:30. In such a school, time is an unappreciated value, and a God given faculty dishonored.

Let the superintendent have two eyes to see all that goes on, two ears to hear all that is said, two hands to help meet visitors and members, two feet to visit the classes, for it is the business of the superintendent to superintend, but first and last and in between let him be prompt.

When the hour arrives for opening, let him tap the bell, if only a few are present commence, and just as promptly close. A prompt, earnest, wide awake superintendent puts spice in a Sunday-school, just as a live wire puts sparks before the eye when it touches a revolving wheel.

2. Good teachers and officers put spice in the Sunday-school. Good and faithful men and women in such positions are essential to true success.

Each school should have an adult class, taught with the view of developing teachers; from this class, substitutes could be drawn, and permanent teachers selected.

One need not be learned in theology, or geology to make a successful teacher. If they know God, love children, and understand that the stone has been rolled away from the tomb of Jesus, they have Sunday-school teacher's timber in them.

Jesus did not say: well done, wise servant, or highly educated servant, or rich servant, but he did say: "Well done good and faithful servant, a consecrated intention, with good and faithful service will win.

One spice box from which teachers and officers should draw is REGULARITY, regular in the work. The old sister who said she was a member of church twenty years, counting off and on, would not have made a good Sunday-school teacher. How can a class be held, much less educated, when the teacher is present one Sunday and absent the next.

A skip, hop and jump may please children when they are at play, but to play at teaching is disastrous to the class, and chilling to the school.

There are times when the teacher must be absent, certainly, but let the teacher make known the fact to the superintendent, and if necessary, help furnish a substitute.

The teacher should not only know the lesson and the main points of the lesson, which link with previous lessons, but the teacher should know boys and girls, and understand how to make an application of some point to each individual case.

The teacher should also know each member of the class outside of the school, and visit them in their homes. All of these points can be flavored with the spice box of regularity.

3. Parents who are interested in the cause of Christ can put spice in the Sunday-school. Oh, what Sunday-schools we might have if parents were as careful of their children's habits on the Lord's day as they ought to be. It is the duty of every Christian father and mother, to see that their children attend the school of their choice. Indeed it is their duty to go with them if possible.